

## THE BIRDS OF LONG ISLAND, BAHAMAS

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**ABSTRACT.**—One hundred and ten species of birds are recorded from Long Island and adjacent cays, 54 for the first time. No species or subspecies is endemic. Of the 48 probable breeding indigenous species, 23 are land birds, most of which are widely distributed in all terrestrial habitats. The Yellow Warbler (*Dendroica petechia*) shows the strongest habitat preference, being nearly confined to mangroves. Nests, eggs, and young are reported for 31 species, 19 of them for the first time on Long Island. The White-winged Dove (*Zenaida asiatica*) and Blue-gray Gnatcatcher (*Polioptila caerulea*) are new additions to the list of breeding land birds. The Bahama Mockingbird (*Mimus gundlachi*) was the most frequently encountered bird during summer 1990, followed closely by the Thick-billed Vireo (*Vireo crassirostris*). Received 16 May 1991, accepted 5 Nov. 1991.

The avifauna of Long Island has never been reviewed systematically, the literature consisting mainly of brief and sparsely annotated noncumulative lists of species. In nearly all cases, these earlier reports have been based on visits of only one to several days duration covering a very limited area, mainly Clarence Town and vicinity. The present report brings together all available information on the distribution of the birds of Long Island and is based in large measure on my observations throughout the island during 28 April–13 May and 6 July–12 August 1990 together with unpublished records contributed by other observers.

### STUDY AREA

Long Island is located in the central part of the Bahama archipelago and is the southeasternmost island of any appreciable size on the Great Bahama Bank (Figs. 1 and 2). It is 103 km long, up to 5–6 km wide and 54 m high, and covers 448 km<sup>2</sup> (Ministry of Education 1985).

Much of the western shore is bordered by low scrub on sandy or rocky soils and occasionally mangrove swamps or tidal flats. Rocky cliffs about 10–30 m high are common along the eastern (windward) shore and are interspersed with rocky and sandy beaches. Rolling hills and north-south trending ridges occur throughout, with the highest elevations being in the south, between Deadman's Cay and Mortimers.

The vegetation is mainly scrub and low, xeric woodlands. Shrubs and bushes (ca 2–3 m tall) and small trees (5–6 m tall) cover large parts of the interior, with vegetation often so dense as to make travel off the roads and trails arduous. Visibility one meter above the ground is often less than ten meters. The largest trees reach heights of about 20 m and occur in small patches or are scattered throughout the scrub. The dominant trees include poisonwood (*Metopium toxiferum*), wild tamarind (*Lysiloma latisiliquum*), logwood (*Haematoxylum campechianum*), and lignum vitae (*Guaiacum sanctum*). Additionally, buttonwood (*Conocarpus erectus*), red mangrove (*Rhizophora mangle*), and black mangrove (*Avicennia*

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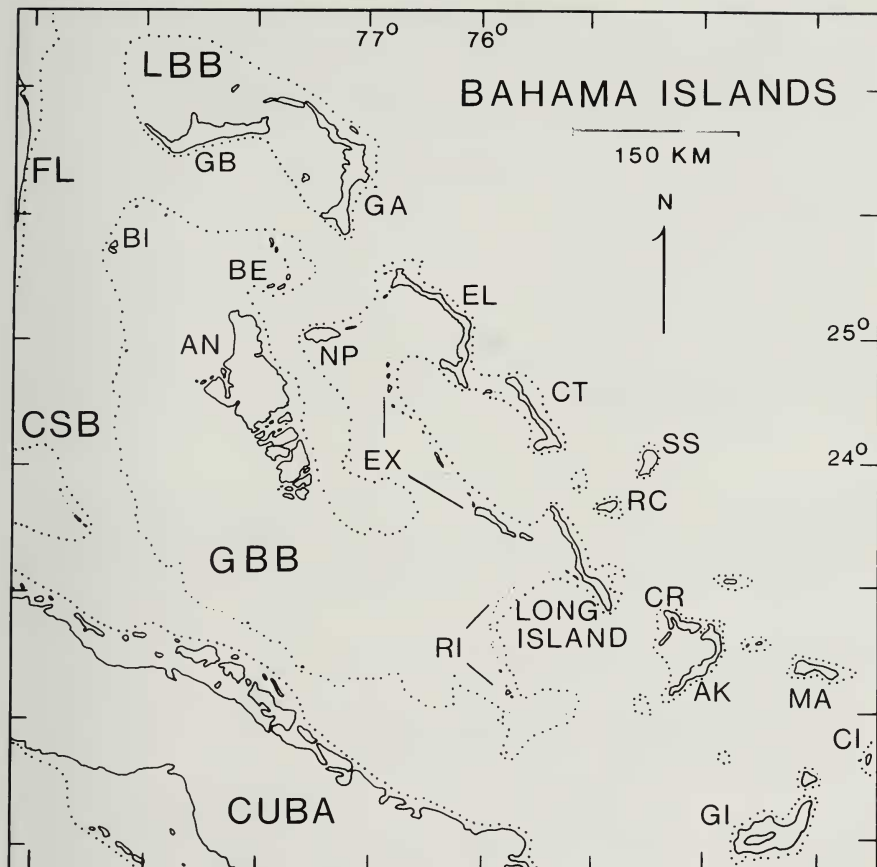


FIG. 1. Map showing the location of Long Island and other Bahama Islands; dotted lines denote the 100 fathom contour. AK = Acklins Island, AN = Andros Island, BE = Berry Islands, BI = Bimini Islands, CI = Caicos Islands, CR = Crooked Island, CSB = Cay Sal Bank, CT = Cat Island, EX = Exumas, FL = Florida, GA = Great Abaco, GB = Grand Bahama, GBB = Great Bahama Bank, GI = Great Inagua, LBB = Little Bahama Bank, MA = Mayaguana, NP = New Providence, RC = Rum Cay, RI = Ragged Islands, SS = San Salvador.

*germinans*) often flourish along the edges of numerous salt ponds, and casuarinas (*Casuarina equisetifolia*) are scattered along the coast, mainly on the leeward side.

Long Island falls within the tropical very dry forest category in the Holdridge system of classification, with rainfall at Clarence Town averaging 906 mm (35.7 inches) annually from 1951 to 1970, being highest during October (17.6 mm = 6.9 inches) and lowest during February and March (Little et al. 1975). There is no evidence of permanent, naturally occurring, surface freshwater (Little et al. 1975). However, between Hard Bargain and Taits, I found a sinkhole ca 30 m in diameter that contained at least a lens of freshwater and that

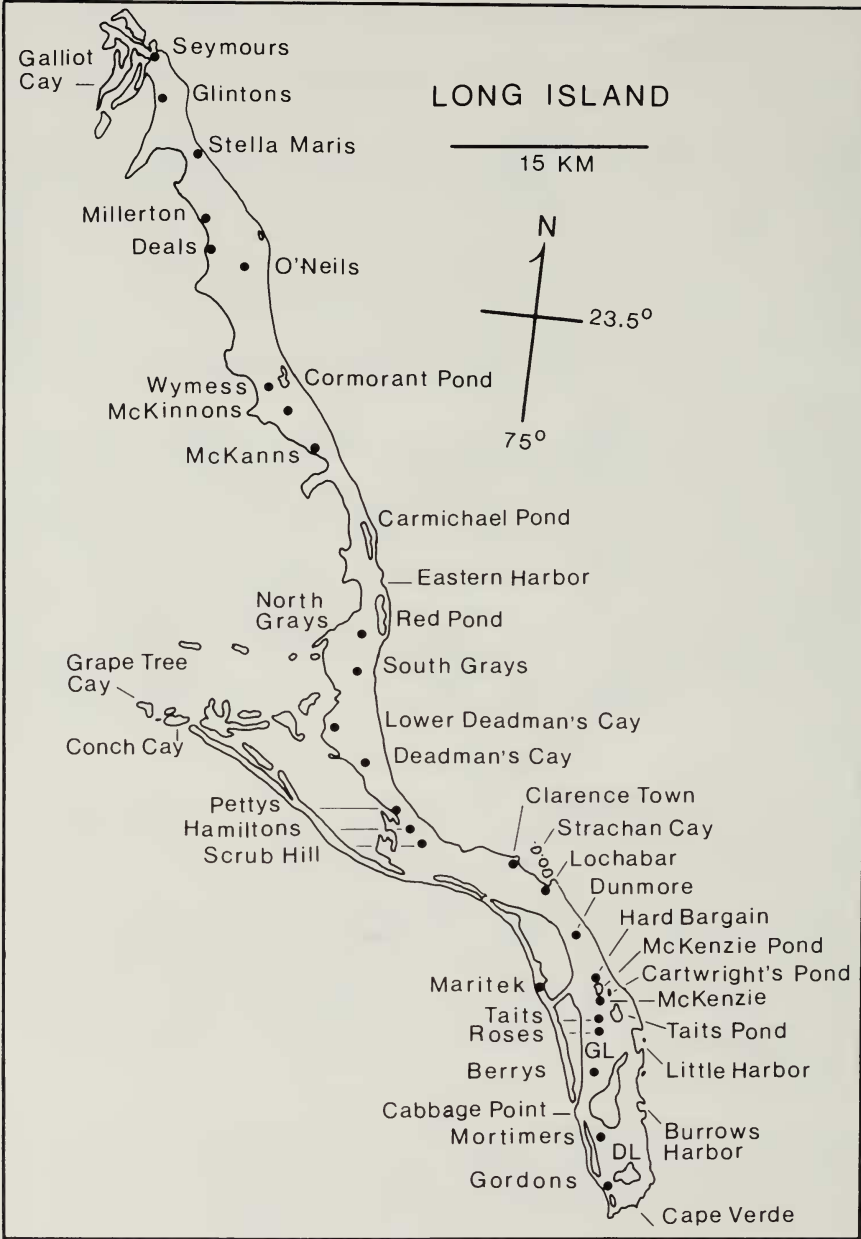


FIG. 2. Map of Long Island. DL = Deep Lake, GL = Great Lake.

was bordered by relatively luxuriant vegetation including large ferns (*Acrostichum*) and pond apple (*Annona*). Other such sinks may occur throughout the scrublands.

The total population was recorded as 3861 in the 1970 census (Ministry of Education 1985). A north-south road interconnects numerous settlements, mainly along the western coast, and many other roads and trails traverse the island. The eastern coast for the most part is uninhabited, Stella Maris and Clarence Town being the only settlements there.

The island economy is based mainly on slash and burn agriculture with numerous small farms producing crops such as tomatoes, corn, onions, cabbage, peas, mangoes, papayas, bananas, melons, and citrus for local consumption as well as shipment to Nassau. The most intensely farmed area is in the vicinity of Deadman's Cay. Sheep and goats are common throughout, and feral hogs are numerous in the southernmost part of the island. The Stella Maris Inn and Estate at the northern end of the island is a major tourist center, but the tourist industry remains undeveloped in the south where there are only a few very modest guest houses or inns. The Diamond Crystal Salt Company operated a solar evaporation salt processing plant near Hard Bargain until 1983. The salt ponds now belong to Maritek Bahamas Ltd. and are managed for commercial production of shrimp and fish.

### ORNITHOLOGICAL HISTORY

Moore (1877) provided the first records of birds from Long Island in the brief accounts of his observations of Lesser Golden Plover (*Pluvialis dominica*), Bonaparte's Gull (*Larus philadelphia*), and Gull-billed Tern (*Sterna nilotica*) on 6 August and 8 October 1876. He reported that examples of the plover and tern were "killed" but gave no indication as to the disposition of any specimens.

Cory (1880) reviewed the Bahama avifauna, drawing in large measure on personal observations from 25 December 1878 to at least 25 June 1879 when he visited many islands throughout the archipelago. His statement (Cory 1880:132) "While at Clarence Harbor, Long Island a fine adult Hawk [=Osprey] came regularly every evening and perched himself upon the tip of the mainmast . . ." suggests he was there at least several days. Although the only records he specified as to date therein are all 7 June, the range of dates for ten specimens in the Field Museum of Natural History, Chicago (FMNH) catalog is 6–11 June.

A Geographical Society of Baltimore expedition to the Bahamas was at Clarence Town and vicinity during 14–17 July 1903. The ornithological results covering observations and collections of 33 species were reported by Riley (1905a) and included in a more comprehensive list of locality records for all the bird species then known from the Bahamas (Riley 1905b). The collection was deposited in the National Museum of Natural History, Smithsonian Institution (USNM).

Worthington (in Todd and Worthington 1911) commented briefly on Killdeer (*Charadrius vociferus*) and Northern Mockingbirds (*Mimus polyglottos*) observed at Clarence Town on 30 January 1909 while on a Carnegie Museum Expedition to the Bahamas. J. C. Greenway was on Long Island during 22–24 February 1934 on one of the Armour-Utowana West Indian Expeditions (see Buden 1990a), and the six specimens of four species he collected are in the Museum of Comparative Zoology, Harvard Univ. (MCZ).

R. W. Hanlon and three associates observed and collected birds in Clarence Town and vicinity during 24 June–2 July 1954. Hanlon's (1955) report covers 24 species with notes on nests and eggs for five. Specimens he collected were deposited in the Biology Dept. of Mankato State Teachers College (now Mankato State Univ.) and the Mankato Senior High School (Minnesota), but I have been unable to determine their present whereabouts.

J. R. Miller was in the Stella Maris area with several other observers during 6–8 December 1974 and 16–28 December 1975 (Miller, in litt.). Some of his records were reported by



Bond (1978, 1980, 1982). M. H. Clench observed birds in Clarence Town and vicinity on 22 March 1976, and A. Sprunt IV visited several different localities during 14 May 1984, 28–29 September 1984, and 18–22 May 1991, their field notes being sources of many new records.

#### METHODS

English names and binomials follow the nomenclature of the American Ornithologists' Union (1983, 1989), but placement of the Greater Flamingo (*Phoenicopterus ruber*) follows Olson and Feduccia (1980), and *Phalacrocorax brasilianus* replaces *P. olivaceus* as the scientific name of the Olivaceous Cormorant after Browning (1989). Subspecies names are used only in selected cases and follow Bond (1956) unless indicated otherwise. Abbreviations of names of observers are AS = Alexander Sprunt IV, DL = David Lincoln, DWB = Donald W. Buden, and MHC = Mary H. Clench.

Abundance is based largely on numbers of individuals usually seen during a day in the field: VC = very common, 30 or more/day; C = common, 15–30/day; FC = fairly common, 5–15/day; UC = uncommon, 1–5 on most days, but not seen every day; S = scarce, 5–15/season; and R = rare, 1–5/season.

Residents occur year-round and breed, and summer visitors breed but are less numerous or absent in winter. Nonbreeding visitors are chiefly winter visitors or transients from continental North America, including occasional visitors or vagrants as well as species present throughout the year but not breeding. The paucity of winter records for many species is an artifact of sampling and in assigning terms of seasonal abundance, I have also considered their status on adjacent islands, relying largely on Bond (1956), Brudenell-Bruce (1975), Buden (1987a, b; 1990b), Connor and Loftin (1985), and Miller (1978).

Censuses were done by recording all birds seen and heard calling while walking along roads and trails covering 164 km during 29 April–13 May and 6 July–12 August 1990. Surveys were at different times of the day from dawn to dusk, and none of the routes was censused more than once. Distances were estimated from government maps (Lands and Surveys Department 1972).

All previous locality records are included for nonbreeding visitors as well as for rare, scarce, and uncommon residents and summer visitors and for species whose status is uncertain. A species recorded on Long Island for the first time is indicated by an asterisk.

#### SPECIES ACCOUNTS

Least Grebe (*Tachybaptus dominicus*).—Probably a scarce resident at ponds throughout. Several observed at Clarence Town during 14–17 July 1903 (Riley 1905a), a pair seen on a pond between Stella Maris and Glintons on 10 May, another pair at a small pond east of the Maritek airstrip on 30 July, and another on a pond near South Grays, 3 August 1990 (DWB).

Audubon's Shearwater (*Puffinus lherminieri*)\*.—Two seen off the northwestern coast, one on 14 May 1984, the other on 18 May 1991 (AS).

White-tailed Tropicbird (*Phaethon lepturus*).—Probably a very local summer visitor. Several seen near cliffs at the northwestern tip of the island in May 1984 and 1991 (AS).

Brown Booby (*Sula leucogaster*)\*.—Probably a rare resident. Two were

seen soaring near high cliffs at Cape Verde on 14 July 1990 (DWB). According to E. Watson (pers. comm.), a long-time resident of Gordons, boobies sometimes nest on the ledges near Cape Verde, and young birds occasionally are harvested for food.

Double-crested Cormorant (*Phalacrocorax auritus*)\*.—Probably an uncommon to fairly common resident. One seen in the Clarence Town area during 21–22 March 1976 (MHC), at least 19 at Maritek 28 and 29 September 1984 (AS), and several at salt ponds throughout, along with many other cormorants unidentified as to species, all during summer 1990 (DWB). “Cormorants” also were seen at Clarence Town during 14–17 July 1903 (Riley 1905a). Breeding: Twelve nests (six with three eggs, two with two eggs, one with four, and one each with one, two, and three nestlings) 2–4 m high on the tops of red mangroves on the eastern shore of Deep Lake, 24 July 1990 (one downy young salvaged as a study skin for the USNM) (DWB).

Olivaceous Cormorant (*P. brasiliensis*)\*.—Status uncertain, but probably resident. Six were seen at Maritek on 29 September 1984 (AS) and a partial skeleton (USNM collection) salvaged from decomposing remains found at Maritek by G. Lipscomb on 3 May 1990 was identified as *P. brasiliensis* by S. Olson.

Magnificent Frigatebird (*Fregata magnificens*).—Nonbreeding visitor. Two sight records only: one immature in flight over Clarence Town on 27 June 1954 (Hanlon 1955) and two seen on 13 May 1990 (DL).

Great Blue Heron (*Ardea herodias*)\*.—Probably a nonbreeding visitor. One seen at Clarence Town during 21–22 March 1976 (MHC), multiple sightings of possibly one bird at the Maritek ponds on 2 May, 17 July, 28 July, and 1 August 1990 (DWB), and others in the Deadman’s Cay area year-round, but more numerous in winter (DL).

Great Egret (*Casmerodius albus*).—Status uncertain but the paucity of sightings suggests nonbreeding visitor. An unstated number were seen in the Clarence Town area during 14–17 July 1903 (Riley 1905a), and one was collected there on 30 June 1954 (Hanlon 1955).

Snowy Egret (*Egretta thula*)\*.—Status uncertain. Possibly breeding locally in small numbers. One seen at Clarence Town during 21–22 March 1976 (MHC), up to 22 together at the Maritek ponds regularly during July 1990, and five flying southward along the coast at Cabbage Point, 19 July 1990 (DWB), and 24 at Maritek during 28–29 September 1984 (AS).

Little Blue Heron (*E. caerulea*)\*.—Status uncertain. Possibly breeding locally in small numbers. Three seen at Clarence Town during 21–22 March 1976 (MHC), one piebald bird between Stella Maris and Millerton on 29 April and three adults at Carmichael Pond on 10 August 1990

(DWB), and two adults and one immature at Maritek during 28–29 September 1984 (AS).

Tricolored Heron (*E. tricolor*).—Fairly common resident. Most numerous at salt ponds—at least 20 together at Maritek ponds, 28–29 September 1984 (AS). Breeding: Three or four ambulatory but flightless young in mangroves on the eastern shore of Deep Lake, 24 July 1990 (DWB).

Reddish Egret (*E. rufescens*)\*.—Status uncertain, possibly breeding. Two white morphs were seen between Stella Maris and Millerton on 29 April, another at the southern end of Cormorant Pond on 9 May, and both white and dark morphs at the Maritek ponds during July 1990, including five white and four dark together on 17 July (DWB). At least 50 were seen during 28–29 September 1984 (AS), and one dark morph was photographed at Grape Tree Cay in October 1988 (DL).

Cattle Egret (*Bubulcus ibis*)\*.—Status uncertain. Possibly breeding in small numbers. Two seen at Clarence Town during 21–22 March 1976 (MHC), and singles at North Grays, Scrub Hill, Hard Bargain, McKenzie, and Mortimers in May and July 1990, and five together at a dump in Lower Deadman's Cay on 4 August 1990 (DWB).

Green-backed Heron (*Butorides striatus*).—Fairly common resident in aquatic habitats throughout and occasionally seen in scrubland far from water. Breeding: A nest with three eggs was collected on 30 June 1954 (Hanlon 1955), and another nest about 4 m high in a *lignum vitae* tree in scrub ca 0.5 km south of McKenzie Pond contained two downy young on 13 July 1990 (DWB).

Yellow-crowned Night-Heron (*Nyctanassa violacea*).—Fairly common resident throughout, most numerous in coastal habitats—maximum concentration, ten seen along 6.5 km of the eastern coast between McKenzie and the southern end of Little Harbor on 14 July 1990 (DWB). The most common heron during summer 1990 (DWB). Recorded previously only by Riley (1905a) and without comment. Breeding: A nest with one abandoned egg ca 2 m high in a buttonwood tree at Cartwright's Pond on 11 July, and one flightless young in an otherwise empty nest ca 2 m high in a red mangrove (and with four recently fledged young nearby) at Deep Lake on 24 July 1990 (DWB).

West Indian Whistling-Duck (*Dendrocygna arborea*)\*.—Probably resident and more numerous than the number of sightings indicate. Its nocturnal habits and predilection for the more inaccessible ponds and swamps as diurnal retreats tend to make assessment of status difficult. Ca 125 seen on Hog Cay (just south of Galliot Cay) with others still arriving in groups of 3–12 "well before dark" on 20 May 1991 (AS), and three in flight over Deadman's Cay at dusk on 7 June 1991 (DL). I saw none during nearly

two months in the field, but many Long Islanders I met consider it a crop pest, especially in corn fields.

Snow Goose (*Chen caerulescens*).—Nonbreeding visitor. Bond (1950: 15) included Long Island in a list of Bahaman localities for the Snow Goose, attributing the record to Forsyth, presumably E. W. Forsyth of Nassau acknowledged in his preface (Bond 1950:ix). This record is not mentioned in earlier editions of his check-list (Bond 1940, 1945) but is included in the latest (fourth) edition without reference to Forsyth.

Green-winged Teal (*Anas crecca*)\*.—Nonbreeding visitor. A male and female were seen together on a small pond at Cabbage Point, 25 November 1990 (DL), and one male banded as a young of the year in Quebec on 21 August 1965 was shot in southern Long Island on 10 October 1982 (Bird Banding Laboratory files).

White-cheeked Pintail (*A. bahamensis*).—Fairly common on ponds and lakes throughout, at least in summer. Possibly resident, but no winter records. Seen regularly in small numbers (2–15 together) during summer 1990 (DWB), 19–22 May 1991 (AS), and 14–17 July 1993 (Riley 1995a). Breeding: One adult was flushed from a nest on the ground at the base of a small white mangrove (*Laguncularia racemosa*) in a dense growth of *Salicornia* at Deep Lake, 15 July 1990 (DWB). The nest was lined with feathers and leaves and contained seven eggs which apparently were eaten later by feral pigs. Only a few scattered shell fragments were found when the site was revisited 24 July.

Blue-winged Teal (*A. discors*)\*.—Nonbreeding visitor. Three were seen on a small pond east of McKinnons on 29 April 1990 (DWB), and six males and five females banded in Canada (one each from New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, and Prince Edward Island, and two from Ontario) and the northern United States (two from Minnesota and one each from Montana, Nebraska, Vermont, and Wisconsin) were recovered during 1955–1984 (Bird Banding Laboratory files). Of the nine recoveries dated as to month, three are October, two are December, and the other three are September, February, and March.

American Wigeon (*A. americana*)\*.—Nonbreeding visitor. A male banded in Saskatchewan on 9 July 1957 was recovered in southern Long Island in 1959 (Bird Banding Laboratory files).

Ring-necked Duck (*Aythya collaris*)\*.—Nonbreeding visitor. Bond (1950: 20, 1956:23) included Long Island in a list of locality records for *A. collaris* without further comment, and a male and female were seen together on a small pond at Cabbage Point on 25 November 1990 (DL).

Osprey (*Pandion haliaetus*).—Resident in coastal areas throughout (*P. h. ridgwayi*), and one record of a nonbreeding visitor (*P. h. carolinensis*)—



a male banded in Michigan as a flightless young on 15 July 1982, recovered 27 October 1982 (Bird Banding Laboratory files). Approximately 30–40 residents estimated during summer 1990 (DWB). Breeding: One female (MCZ 269642) was taken from a nest with one egg at “E. Booby Cay” (vicinity of Clarence Town?) on 23 February 1934 (J. C. Greenway), a nest at Maritek contained two young during spring 1989 (B. Sharfstein), and a local schoolboy told me one young was raised yearly at a nest on the eastern shore opposite North Grays. Locations of other nests active in recent years include one on the coast near Seymours (AS), two at the northern end of Galliot Cay (J. Friese), one on the eastern coast opposite McKanns (A. Knowles), one at Eastern Harbor (DL), one on the coast near Red Pond (DWB), one on Grape Tree Cay and two on Conch Cay (DL and DWB), and two at the southern tip of the island, one at Cape Verde and the other near the disused navigation beacon (DWB).

American Kestrel (*Falco sparverius*).—Uncommon resident. The first records are two seen during 6–8 December 1974 and others almost everyday during 16–28 December 1975, all in the Stella Maris area by Miller et al. (Miller, in litt). Bond (1980:10) reported these records as 1976. I saw kestrels in small numbers throughout during summer 1990, including one rufous morph (common in Cuba but rare in the Bahamas) at Hard Bargain on 9 July. Breeding: Nesting was reported by Bond 1980:3). Highly vociferous, territorial birds were seen regularly in spring in Deadman’s Cay, and recently fledged young with presumed parents were there on 27 May 1989 (DL).

Merlin (*F. columbarius*)\*.—Nonbreeding visitor. One seen harassing shorebirds at the Maritek ponds on 29 September 1984 (AS).

Peregrine Falcon (*F. peregrinus*)\*.—Nonbreeding visitor. One seen regularly at Maritek and vicinity during December 1989–March 1990 (G. Lipscomb).

Clapper Rail (*Rallus longirostris*)\*.—Probably resident in mangrove habitats throughout, and more numerous than records indicate: two seen 29 April, one on 1 May, one on 5 May, one heard calling on 10 May, and another seen on 25 July 1990 (DWB).

American Coot (*Fulica americana*)\*.—Nonbreeding visitor. One seen at Clarence Town during 21–22 March 1976 (MHC) is the only record, but many Long Islanders report “coots and ducks” common in winter.

Black-bellied Plover (*Pluvialis squatarola*)\*.—Nonbreeding visitor. Seen occasionally in small numbers during May and July 1990—maximum 10 together on 17 July (DWB). This and many other shorebird species that breed in North America almost certainly are more numerous in winter than summer, the paucity of winter records being an artifact of sampling.

Lesser Golden Plover (*P. dominica*).—Nonbreeding visitor. Two “killed” on 8 October 1876 (Moore 1877).

Snowy Plover (*Charadrius alexandrinus*).—Probably a scarce resident or summer visitor but breeding is undocumented. Seen occasionally along the shores of salt ponds during summer 1990 (DWB), and one collected on 16 July 1903 (Riley 1903a, 1905a).

Wilson’s Plover (*C. wilsonia*).—Fairly common resident or summer visitor on beaches throughout. Breeding: A nest with three eggs on a beach at the northern end of Galliot Cay, 21 May 1991 (AS), and one adult with two flightless but cursorial young on a sandy beach just north of Burrows Harbor, 14 July 1990 (DWB).

Semipalmated Plover (*C. semipalmatus*).—Nonbreeding visitor. Seen regularly in small numbers (2–5 together) at salt ponds and beaches during summer 1990 (DWB), and one collected on 17 July 1903 (Riley 1905a).

Killdeer (*C. vociferus*).—Fairly common at shallow ponds and low-lying, sparsely vegetated wet areas in summer. The only winter record is one seen on 30 January 1908 (Worthington in Todd and Worthington 1911).

American Oystercatcher (*Haematopus palliatus*).—Probably an uncommon resident, but breeding undocumented and no winter records. Seen regularly (maximum eight in one day) on rocky beaches during summer 1990 (DWB), daily at the northern end of the island, 14 May 1984 and 18–22 May 1991 (AS), and five or six seen (one collected) in the Clarence Town area, 17 July 1903 (Riley 1905a).

Black-necked Stilt (*Himantopus mexicanus*).—Very common at ponds in summer, status in winter uncertain. Usually in flocks of 10–30—maximum 75 together at a small pond near Stella Maris, 28 April 1990 (DWB). Breeding: Downy young on one of the Clarence Town cays on 27 June 1954 (Hanlon 1955) and a nest with two eggs at Tait’s Pond on 10 July 1990 (DWB).

Greater Flamingo (*Phoenicopterus ruber*).—Former breeder now probably an occasional visitor. Allen (1956:121) reported there was a colony south of Clarence Town until sometime in the 1840s, and Riley (190 ) received unconfirmed reports of breeding in a “lake near Clarence Harbor” in the early 1900s. Some of the local residents of settlements south of Clarence Town told me of occasional recent sightings, including one seen at Gordons on 26 July 1990, but I saw none during my stay.

Greater Yellowlegs (*Tringa melanoleuca*)\*.—Nonbreeding visitor. Three were seen at Clarence Town during 21–22 March 1976 (MHC), up to ten together at salt ponds throughout during summer 1990 (DWB), and others during 28–29 September 1984 (AS).



Lesser Yellowlegs (*T. flavipes*)\*.—Nonbreeding visitor. Seen regularly at salt ponds throughout, usually in small groups of 2–20 during summer 1990 (DWB), and others during 28–29 September 1984 (AS).

Willet (*Catoptrophorus semipalmatus*).—Fairly common on tidal flats and at salt ponds; probably resident but no winter records. Breeding: One flightless young with an adult on the shore of a mangrove-bordered pond north of Maritek on 2 August 1990 (DWB).

Spotted Sandpiper (*Actitis macularia*)\*.—Nonbreeding visitor. I saw single birds along beaches and the shores of ponds regularly from 18 July until my departure on 12 August, but none during early July nor during 28 April–13 May 1990.

Whimbrel (*Numenius phaeopus*)\*.—Nonbreeding visitor. Two seen flying across a pond at Maritek, 3 May 1990 (DWB).

Ruddy Turnstone (*Arenaria interpres*).—Nonbreeding visitor. Twelve seen during 21–22 March 1976 (MHC), two on one of the Clarence Town cays on 27 June 1954 (Hanlon 1955), and small flocks, usually of 5–15, during May and July–August 1990—maximum 35–40 together at Maritek on 3 May 1990 (DWB).

Red Knot (*Calidris canutus*)\*.—Nonbreeding visitor. A flock of 13 seen at the Maritek ponds, 3 May 1990 (DWB).

Sanderling (*C. alba*)\*.—Nonbreeding visitor. Five seen at the Maritek ponds on 28 July and three on a sandy beach east of McKenzie on 8 August 1990 (DWB).

Semipalmated Sandpiper (*C. pusilla*)\*.—Nonbreeding visitor. Seen in small groups of 2–4 on 3 May, 22 July, and 7 August 1990 (DWB), and on 29 September 1984 (AS). Almost certainly much more numerous than records indicate, as many of the large flocks of unidentified shorebirds I saw during early May and July–August probably included this as well as other sandpiper species.

Least Sandpiper (*C. minutilla*).—Nonbreeding visitor. Over 50 seen during 21–22 March 1976 (MHC), seven seen and several collected on 16 July 1903 (Riley 1905a), and small flocks (maximum 25–30 together) seen occasionally during May and July–August 1990 (DWB).

Pectoral Sandpiper (*C. melanotos*)\*.—Nonbreeding visitor. One seen at Deep Lake on 24 July, one at a small pond near Taits on 29 July, and another at Red Pond on 3 August 1990 (DWB).

Stilt Sandpiper (*C. himantopus*)\*.—Nonbreeding visitor. Several seen and photographed at ponds near Maritek on 29 September 1984 (AS).

Short-billed Dowitcher (*Limnodromus griseus*)\*.—Nonbreeding visitor. Two seen on 17 July, several on 31 July and 1 August 1990 (DWB), and several others on 18 May 1984 (AS).

Laughing Gull (*Larus atricilla*).—Common to very common at salt

ponds and along beaches, at least in summer—maximum 150–200 at a small pond east of Roses on 4 May and 75–100 regularly at the Maritek ponds during July 1990 (DWB). Possibly resident but no winter records. Breeding is undocumented but several recently fledged young at Deep Lake on 19 July 1990 almost certainly were hatched locally (DWB).

Bonaparte's Gull (*L. philadelphia*).—Nonbreeding visitor. The only record is one “closely observed” on 8 October 1876 (Moore 1877).

Ring-billed Gull (*L. delawarensis*)\*.—Nonbreeding visitor. Two seen near Maritek on 28 September 1984 (AS).

Herring Gull (*L. argentatus*)\*.—Nonbreeding visitor. One banded in Michigan as a recently fledged young on 2 July 1952 was recovered in January 1953 (Bird Banding Laboratory files).

Gull-billed Tern (*Sterna nilotica*).—Common summer visitor, most numerous at large, shallow salt ponds. The most numerous tern during summer 1990 (DWB). Breeding (all records are 1990 [DWB]).—Colony, 15 adults, three nests (two with one egg and one with two eggs), sandbar at Tait's Pond, 2 July; several recently fledged young at Great Lake, 19 July; ca 50 empty nests consisting of shallow depressions on the ground lined with small shells, flakes of rock, and plaques of matted algae at McKenzie Pond on 6 May, and ca 50 others at a small, coastal pond northeast of O'Neils on 12 May. Approximately 30 adults were at the McKenzie site and 35–40 at O'Neils, but no eggs or young. A few shell fragments were found when the McKenzie site was revisited on 6 July, but no adults or active nests.

Royal Tern (*S. maxima*).—Status uncertain. Probably a scarce or uncommon summer visitor or resident, but breeding is undocumented. Five were seen during 21–22 March 1976 (MHC), “a few” during 14–17 July 1903 (Riley 1905a), and two on 29 September 1984 and several others on 21 and 22 May 1991 (AS). I saw four single birds at different localities in May and July and nine together at Maritek on 3 May 1990. The Maritek staff said Royal Terns are common at the ponds at times. No winter records, but many banded in the southeastern United States have been recovered on other Bahama Islands then (Bird Banding Laboratory files).

Sandwich Tern (*S. sandvicensis*).—Status uncertain. Possibly breeding in small numbers. Seen near Galliot Cay in May 1984 and 1991 (AS), at Clarence Town Harbor in June 1879 (Cory 1880:213), and 10–12 together at a pond south of Gordons on 25 July 1990 (DWB).

Roseate Tern (*S. dougallii*).—Probably a summer visitor in widely scattered colonies. “Common” in Clarence Town Harbor (specimen collected, FMNH) in June 1879 (Cory 1880:213) and reported as a confirmed breeder on the Clarence Town cays (Sprunt 1984). I saw ca 25 at the Maritek ponds on 3 May and several there on 17 July 1990, and AS considered

*S. dougallii* common in the Galliot Cay area in May 1984 and saw over 150 there during 18–22 May 1991.

Least Tern (*S. antillarum*).—Common summer visitor. Abundant and one collected in June 1954 (Hanlon 1955), and seen regularly (usually 10–15 together) at ponds and coastal areas throughout during summer 1990—maximum of 75 together at a pond south of Gordons on 25 July (DWB). Breeding: Colony, 10–15 adults, two single egg clutches, coastal pond northeast of O'Neils, 12 May 1990 (DWB); colony, ca 15 adults, two clutches (one with one egg, one with two), Deep Lake, 25 July 1990 (DWB).

Bridled Tern (*S. anaethetus*).—Probably a summer visitor to some of the immediately adjacent offshore cays, but no recent records. Cory (1880: 215) considered it abundant during June 1879 and collected four specimens on 9 June. He reported breeding birds and eggs in Clarence Town Harbor in early June, presumably on one of the cays.

Sooty Tern (*S. fuscata*).—Probably a common to very common visitor to many of the offshore cays, much less frequently on the main island. Breeding: Colony, ca 80 pairs plus eggs, one of the Clarence Town cays, 24 June–2 July 1954 (Hanlon 1955); colony, ca 200–300 adults plus eggs, upper beach zone at Lochabar, 23 May 1988 (no nesting during 1990) (DL); colony, ca 1500–2000 adults and many nearly fledged young, Strachan Cay, 12 July 1990 (DWB); many adults (probably part of a breeding colony) on a cay in Little Harbor observed from the main island, 21 July 1990 (DWB).

Brown Noddy (*Anous stolidus*).—Probably a summer visitor to some of the offshore cays, breeding very probable but undocumented. I saw approximately ten on Strachan Cay and several others in flight over an adjacent cay to the south on 12 July, and others off a cay in Little Harbor on 21 July 1990, and AS saw several in the Galliot Cay area on 19 and 20 May 1991. Previously recorded only by Cory (1892) without further comment.

Rock Dove (*Columba livia*)\*.—Introduced. Seen occasionally and only in the vicinity of settlements during summer 1990 (DWB).

White-crowned Pigeon (*C. leucocephala*).—Fairly common in mangroves and the more heavily wooded areas, and probably on many of the offshore cays, at least in summer; status in winter uncertain. Seen regularly and usually no more than ten together during summer 1990 (DWB). Paul and Blankinship (1979) reported eight hunters shot 864 during 25–28 September 1978. Breeding: Colony, ca 100 adults, 10 nests (five with one egg, five with two eggs), Grape Tree Cay, 7 July 1990 (DWB); two nests each with one egg and two with two eggs, in mangroves at Deep Lake,

24 July 1990 (DWB); reported breeding at unspecified localities in 1978 with a hatching peak in early August (Paul and Blankinship 1979).

White-winged Dove (*Zenaida asiatica*)\*.—Probably an uncommon resident, most numerous in the southern part of the island. I observed White-winged Doves singly or in small groups of two to four during May and July–August 1990, most of the sightings being south of Clarence Town. G. Lipscomb (pers. comm.) saw at least one regularly in the vicinity of the residence quarters at Maritek beginning in April and continuing into summer 1990. A caged bird belonging to a boy in McKenzie was caught initially on the floor of a garage, unable to fly in early July 1990. Breeding: A nest on top of a small (ca 1 m tall), isolated red mangrove on the eastern shore of Deep Lake contained one egg on 24 July 1990 (DWB). The Long Island population probably represents a recent colonization from the southern Bahamas where *Z. asiatica* has been recorded from Acklins, Great Inagua, and the Turks and Caicos Islands (Buden 1987a), and where it has become increasingly more numerous at least on the Turks and Caicos banks in recent years (Norton 1984, 1987). The only other Bahama records of which I am aware are sightings of singles on Grand Bahama on 14 November 1964 and 22 October 1966 (Kale et al. 1969).

Zenaida Dove (*Z. aurita*).—Fairly common resident throughout, most numerous in cultivated areas and along gravel roads. Breeding: Riley (1905a) reported a nest in a cavern in beach rock that contained two young “with the feathers just sprouting” on 17 July 1903. I found eight nests during summer 1990: one under construction on 10 July containing two eggs on 14 July, four others with two eggs each on 11, 19, and 29 July and 6 August, another with one egg on 18 July, one with one egg and a downy young on 23 July, and another empty except for an adult that flushed when approached on 31 July. Five of the eight nests were 1–5 m high in trees or shrubs. One of the three ground nests was in an eroded pocket of beach rock only a few meters from the tide line, another was at the base of a small red mangrove on the shore of a salt pond, and the other was in an excavated area where bulldozed land recently reverted to secondary growth of shrubs and grasses. The eight nests ranged from simple, natural depressions on the ground, scantily lined with twigs and leaves to well-formed shallow bowls or cups of loosely woven twigs.

Mourning Dove (*Z. macroura*).—Probably an uncommon resident throughout. Hanlon (1955) considered it common “in and about Clarence Town” during 24 June–2 July 1954. MHC saw one during 21–22 March 1976, and I saw a total of about 50 throughout in seven weeks during May and July–August 1990, no more than three at any one time. A male (USNM 189833) collected on 16 July 1903 clearly is *Z. m. carolinensis*.



Breeding: A nest with two downy young ca 2.5 m high in a wild tamarind in scrubland between Maritek and Hard Bargain, 30 July 1990 (DWB).

Common Ground-Dove (*Columbina passerina*).—Common resident, most numerous on roadsides and in gardens, yards, and other open grassy or weedy areas. Breeding: "Nests and eggs were observed" during 24 June–2 July 1954 (Hanlon 1955). I found one nest with two pinfeathered young on 7 May and six other nests during 15–29 July 1990, three each with two eggs, one with one egg, and two others empty except for an adult that flushed when approached. All seven nests were 1.5–5 m high in shrubs and trees.

Key West Quail-Dove (*Geotrygon chrysia*)\*.—Probably a scarce resident, but status difficult to assess because of skulking habits and lack of tendency to flush, preferring stealthy retreat on the ground using dense vegetation for cover. One I saw at close range crossing an open trail through low, xeric, scrubby woodland southeast of Cormorant Pond on 8 May 1990 is the only record.

Cuban Parrot (*Amazona leucocephala*).—Probably a former resident, but the inclusion of *A. leucocephala* here rests on rather tenuous grounds apparently based on hearsay evidence; I do not know of any firsthand, confirmed reports. The Cuban Parrot occurs in the Bahamas now only on Great Abaco and Great Inagua but was more widespread there in the past (Gnam and Burchsted 1991). Bond (1956:73) stated it formerly occurred on Long Island but did not mention specific records. Cory (1918: 91) gave the range of *A. l. bahamensis* as "Inagua Acklin and Fortune Island (formerly also Abaco and Long Island) . . .," his inclusion of Long Island doubtless stemming from an earlier report (Cory 1880:123) that "the natives claim . . . [parrots] also exist at Abaco and Long Island, but if this be true it is probably only in small numbers as we never met with them during our explorations of the last-named islands."

Mangrove Cuckoo (*Coccyzus minor*).—Probably an uncommon resident, but no winter records and breeding is unconfirmed. No more than six recorded in one day during summer 1990, and more often heard than seen (DWB). One was collected on 26 June 1954 (Hanlon 1955) and another during 14–17 July 1903 (Riley 1905a).

Smooth-billed Ani (*Crotophaga ani*).—Uncommon to fairly common resident. Riley (1905a) considered it "rather rare," but I saw anis throughout and regularly usually in groups of two to five during summer 1990 (DWB). Recorded also by Cory (1892) without further comment. Breeding: One adult at a nest of sticks and twigs ca 3 m high in a thorny, roadside tree at Deadman's Cay on 1 May 1990 (DWB); two adults seen with six young at a nest in Deadman's Cay on 27 August 1990 (DL);

reports of yearly nesting in Deals, usually in May and with five to seven adults tending a single nest (B. Deal).

Barn Owl (*Tyto alba*)\*.—Rare resident. Although I did not see any owls during summer 1990, feathers and prey remains of *T. alba* were found in a small cave near the eastern coast opposite Hamiltons on 7 July, and additional feathers and prey remains along with shells of hatched eggs were on the floor of another cave on the eastern shore opposite Deadman's Cay on 3 August (DWB). Very few local residents queried have seen *T. alba* on Long Island, and its apparent scarcity there is surprising in view of the abundance of potential nesting sites in caves and sinkholes and food in the form of rats and mice, and of its widespread occurrence elsewhere throughout the archipelago.

Burrowing Owl (*Athene cunicularia*).—Status uncertain; vagrant or possibly rare resident. The only records are two seen in the Stella Maris area by J. R. Miller et al. on 19 and again (possibly same birds) on 26 December 1975 (Miller, pers. comm., in litt.; Bond 1982:11). I found no evidence of *A. cunicularia* during seven weeks in May and July–August 1990. That some Long Islanders refer to kestrels as owls, however, adds to the difficulty in assessing its status there.

Antillean Nighthawk (*Chordeiles gundlachii*).—Common summer visitor. Usually seen hawking for insects at dawn and dusk and frequently flushed from beach strand and sparsely vegetated or barren shores of salt ponds during the day—maximum 20 flushed in one hour on Grape Tree Cay, 7 July 1990 (DWB). Breeding: One downy young on 17 July 1903 (Riley 1903b); seven single egg clutches on 7, 14, 15, 18, 25, and two on 31 July, one recently hatched young on 14 July, one recently fledged young on 9 July, two others on 15 July, and another on 30 July 1990 (DWB). Nighthawks were present during my visit from 28 April to 13 May but demonstrated no evidence of breeding then.

Bahama Woodstar (*Calliphlox evelynae*).—Fairly common resident. Breeding: One nest collected on 26 June 1954 (Hanlon 1955); four nests found 1–1.5 m high in shrubs and small trees, one with one egg on 24 July, one with two eggs on 6 August, and two each with two nestlings on 7 July and 6 August 1990 (DWB).

Belted Kingfisher (*Ceryle alcyon*)\*.—Nonbreeding visitor. One seen on 9 May 1990 (DWB) and another on 29 September 1984 (AS).

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker (*Sphyrapicus varius*)\*.—Nonbreeding visitor. The only records are one seen on 22 October 1988 and another on 9 November 1990, both in Deadman's Cay (DL), but "sapsucker holes" occur in many trees throughout (DWB).

Gray Kingbird (*Tyrannus dominicensis*).—Fairly common summer vis-



itor. Most numerous in the settlements and in the trees bordering salt ponds. Breeding: A nest with an undetermined number of eggs on 14 July 1903 (Riley 1905a); one nest with two eggs on 9 July, one with three eggs on 15 July, another with one nearly fledged young on 24 July, and one with two downy young on 10 August 1990 (DWB). All of the nests were 1–4.5 m high in trees, and three of the four I found were overhanging water.

Loggerhead Kingbird (*T. caudifasciatus*)\*. — Probably vagrant. The only record is of one seen in a wild tamarind tree near the terminal building at Deadman's Cay airport, 12 August 1990 (DWB). It was observed at close range through binoculars for several minutes as it alternately perched quietly and moved silently among the branches at the mid-level of the canopy. The nearest known breeding populations occur in Cuba, ca 210 km southwest of Long Island, and on Andros, approximately the same distance to the northwest. *T. caudifasciatus* is resident in the Bahamas only on the northern pine-forested islands, including Grand Bahama, Abaco, Andros, and New Providence (Bond 1956, Brudenell-Bruce 1975).

Purple Martin (*Progne subis*)\*. — Nonbreeding visitor. Five or six seen flying low over the road in Berrys on 4 May 1990 (DWB).

Northern Rough-winged Swallow (*Stelgidopteryx serripennis*)\*. — Nonbreeding visitor. Several seen on 29 September 1984 (AS).

Barn Swallow (*Hirundo rustica*)\*. — Nonbreeding visitor. One seen on 6 May, and three other sightings of one, ten, and ca 20 during 9–12 May 1990 (DWB), and eight seen on 11 November 1990 (DL).

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher (*Polioptila caerulea*)\*. — Probably a scarce or uncommon resident in scrub and xeric woodland, at least in the southern part of the island. I saw up to six in one day (maximum three together) during my visits in May and July–August 1990, and DL reported one on 16 October 1990, none of the sightings being north of Hard Bargain. Occurrence throughout July is suggestive of residents or summer visitors and not passage migrants. Confinement of records to the southernmost part of the island may indicate recent colonization from that direction or at least greater numbers in the southern and more arid region. Blue-gray Gnatcatchers are widespread in the Bahamas and resident on most of the major islands (Bond 1956, Brudenell-Bruce 1975, Buden 1987a), but they remain unknown from a number of islands in the central part of the archipelago, including Eleuthera, the Exumas, Cat Island, Rum Cay, and San Salvador. Brudenell-Bruce (1975) stated *P. caerulea* was formerly resident on New Providence but is now only an "uncommon autumn passage migrant" there. To what extent other Bahama populations are at times augmented or supplanted by nonbreeding visitors from the southeastern United States or from other Bahama Islands is uncertain.

TABLE 1  
INDIGENOUS, BREEDING LAND BIRDS OF LONG ISLAND IN DECREASING ORDER OF  
ABUNDANCE BASED ON GENERAL OBSERVATIONS AND WITH THE NUMBER OF  
BIRDS SEEN AND HEARD/KM DURING SURVEYS COVERING 164 KM

Species	Abundance <sup>a</sup>	Birds/km
Bahama Mockingbird ( <i>Mimus gundlachi</i> )	VC	3.1
Thick-billed Vireo ( <i>Vireo crassirostris</i> )	VC	2.9
Greater Antillean Bullfinch ( <i>Loxigilla violacea</i> )	VC	2.4
Black-faced Grassquit ( <i>Tiaris bicolor</i> )	C-VC	2.0
Bananaquit ( <i>Coereba flaveola</i> )	C-VC	1.7
Common Ground-Dove ( <i>Columbina passerina</i> )	C	1.4
Antillean Nighthawk ( <i>Chordeiles gundlachi</i> )	C	0.1
Northern Mockingbird ( <i>Mimus polyglottos</i> )	FC-VC	0.6
Gray Kingbird ( <i>Tyrannus dominicensis</i> )	FC	0.4
Bahama Woodstar ( <i>Calliphlox evelynae</i> )	FC	0.2
Zenaida Dove ( <i>Zenaida aurita</i> )	FC	0.2
White-crowned Pigeon ( <i>Columba leucocephala</i> )	FC	0.1
Smooth-billed Ani ( <i>Crotophaga ani</i> )	UC-FC	0.2
Yellow Warbler ( <i>Dendroica petechia</i> )	UC-FC	0.1
Mangrove Cuckoo ( <i>Coccyzus minor</i> )	UC	0.2
Stripe-headed Tanager ( <i>Spindalis zena</i> )	UC	0.2
Mourning Dove ( <i>Z. macroura</i> )	UC	0.1
Black-whiskered Vireo ( <i>Vireo altiloquus</i> )	UC	0.1
American Kestrel ( <i>Falco sparverius</i> )	UC	0.1
White-winged Dove ( <i>Z. asiatica</i> )	UC	0.0
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher ( <i>Polioptila caerulea</i> )	S-UC	0.0
Key West Quail-Dove ( <i>Geotrygon chrysis</i> )	S	0.0
Barn Owl ( <i>Tyto alba</i> )	R	0.0

<sup>a</sup> VC = very common, C = common, FC = fairly common, UC = uncommon, S = scarce, R = rare; see Methods for additional explanation.

Gray Catbird (*Dumetella carolinensis*)\*. —Nonbreeding visitor. One seen during 21–22 March 1976 (MHC) and another on 29 April 1990 (DWB).

Northern Mockingbird (*Mimus polyglottos*). —Fairly common to locally very common resident in the settlements and the more open, sparsely vegetated scrublands—1.9/km along the main road through the well-settled area between North Grays and Pettys on 1 May 1990 vs 0.6/km overall (see Table 1). Two males were collected by J. C. Greenway on 22 February 1934. Worthington (in Todd and Worthington 1911) reported it “common at Clarence Town” on 30 January 1909, MHC recorded 10 there during 21–22 March 1976, and Hanlon (1955) considered it a “very common bird in and about Clarence Town” during 24 June–2 July 1954. Breeding (all records are 1990 [DWB]): One nest with two pinfeathered young, 1.5 m high in a buttonwood tree at Seymours, 10 May; one nest

under construction ca 5 m high in a lignum vitae at Berrys on 15 July; one fledged young still with spotted breast at Dunmore on 27 July.

Bahama Mockingbird (*M. gundlachii*).—Very common resident throughout, though less numerous in the settlements than in the outlying scrublands and woodlands. The most frequently encountered bird during summer 1990 (DWB). Breeding: One nest under construction in Wymess on 9 May, another in Berrys on 15 July, and one nest with two eggs on the northeastern shore of Great Lake on 19 July 1990; all 0.5–4.5 m high in trees (DWB).

Pearly-eyed Thrasher (*Margarops fuscatus*).—Probably vagrant from adjacent islands to the south or east. Riley (1905a) considered it rare on Long Island in July 1903 but gave no indication as to how many were seen, possibly only one. There are no other firsthand records. Dense populations of *M. fuscatus* on Rum Cay (Buden 1990b) and San Salvador (Miller 1978) are very probable sources of individuals seen occasionally on the Great Bahama Bank on Eleuthera (including Harbour Island), Cat Island, Great Exuma, and Long Island. Breeding has never been documented on any of the Great Bank islands nor on the Little Bahama Bank where one *M. fuscatus* was seen on Abaco on 20 March 1990 (Norton 1990).

Thick-billed Vireo (*Vireo crassirostris*).—Very common resident throughout. Breeding: One nest under construction on 29 April, two nests each with one egg on 7 July, and another with one egg on 3 August 1990, all 1–2.5 m high in shrubs and trees (DWB).

Yellow-throated Vireo (*V. flavifrons*).—Nonbreeding visitor. Three seen during 6–8 December 1974, three on 16, two on 19, and one on 23 December 1975, all by J. R. Miller et al. in the Stella Maris area (Miller, in litt., Bond 1978:15).

Black-whiskered Vireo (*V. altiloquus*).—Uncommon summer visitor. Usually seen in heavily wooded areas, including dense mangrove swamps. Seen and heard occasionally during summer 1990, and no more than three in one day except for ten on 10 May (DWB). Riley (1905a) considered it common in the vicinity of Clarence Town during 14–17 July 1903.

Northern Parula (*Parula americana*)\*.—Nonbreeding visitor. One seen on 1 May 1990 (DWB).

Yellow Warbler (*Dendroica petechia*).—Uncommon to fairly common resident in mangroves and immediately adjacent scrub, but breeding undocumented. Maximum concentration, 11 in 2 km along a mangrove and buttonwood bordered creek south of Maritek, 28 July 1990 (DWB). Cory (1880:57) said it was “not uncommon at Inagua and Long Island during May and June” 1879, and MHC saw five in the Clarence Town area during 21–22 March 1976.

Prairie Warbler (*D. discolor*)\*.—Nonbreeding visitor. Three seen during 21–22 March 1976 (MHC), several nearly every day during 31 July–12 August 1990 (DWB), and one on 29 September 1984 (AS).

Palm Warbler (*D. palmarum*)\*.—Nonbreeding visitor. One seen on 4 May 1990 (DWB) and another on 29 September 1984 (AS).

Bay-breasted Warbler (*D. castanea*)\*.—Nonbreeding visitor. I saw one during a brief stop on Long Island on 7 May 1976 and another on 13 May 1990, both at Stella Maris.

Blackpoll Warbler (*D. striata*)\*.—Nonbreeding visitor. One seen on 30 April 1990 (DWB).

Black-and-white Warbler (*Mniotilta varia*)\*.—Nonbreeding visitor. One seen on 2 August 1990 (DWB).

American Redstart (*Setophaga ruticilla*).—Nonbreeding visitor. Three seen on 29 April 1990 (DWB), and also recorded by Cory (1892) without comment.

Ovenbird (*Seiurus aurocapillus*).—Nonbreeding visitor. One seen on 29 April 1990 (DWB), and recorded also by Cory (1892) without comment.

Common Yellowthroat (*Geothlypis trichas*)\*.—Nonbreeding visitor. One seen on 30 April 1990 (DWB).

Bananaquit (*Coereba flaveola*).—Common to very common resident throughout. Breeding (all records are 1990 [DWB]): One fledged young soliciting food from an adult on 29 April, one nest with two pinfeathered young on 30 April, another with two naked hatchlings and one egg on 16 July, and one nest under construction on 24 July, all the nests being 2–3 m high in trees.

Stripe-headed Tanager (*Spindalis zena*).—Uncommon resident. Cory (1880:93) reported it “rather uncommon” in June 1879, and Hanlon (1955) saw only one during 24 June–2 July 1954. Riley (1905a), however, considered it “very common” in July 1903. I saw *S. zena* regularly and throughout in small numbers (maximum ten in one day on 26 July) during summer 1990. I found no direct evidence of breeding, but many of the males were calling from the topmost branches of the larger trees during late July and early August when both sexes were seen more frequently.

Summer Tanager (*Piranga rubra*)\*.—Nonbreeding visitor. One male seen on 21 and 24 September 1990, probably same bird (DL).

Indigo Bunting (*Passerina cyanea*)\*.—Nonbreeding visitor. Fifteen seen during 21–22 March 1976 (MHC) and five on 29 April and one on 10 May 1990 (DWB).

Black-faced Grassquit (*Tiaris bicolor*).—Common to very common resident, most numerous in weedy vegetation along roadsides and in the more sparsely vegetated scrublands. Breeding: Two nests each with two



eggs, both ca 2 m high (one in a tree, the other in a dense shrub) on 19 July, and another nest under construction ca 1 m high in a shrub on 6 August 1990 (DWB).

Greater Antillean Bullfinch (*Loxigilla violacea*).—Very common resident in scrublands and woodlands and one of the most frequently encountered birds during summer 1990 (DWB), but breeding is undocumented.

Savannah Sparrow (*Passerculus sandwichensis*)\*.—Nonbreeding visitor. One seen on 10 May 1990 (DWB).

Northern Oriole (*Icterus galbula*)\*.—Nonbreeding visitor. One male seen on 1 May 1990 (DWB) and sightings of at least one other male on 21 and 24 September 1990 (DL).

#### DISCUSSION

Of the 110 species of birds recorded from Long Island, at least 49 probably breed there; no species or subspecies is endemic. Excluding the introduced Rock Dove, 23 (=48%) of the breeders or probable breeders are land birds (pigeons to passerines plus one kestrel), 13 are shorebirds (Charadriiforms), three are herons and egrets, two are cormorants, two are ducks, and the remaining five are a grebe, tropicbird, booby, rail, and Osprey. Nine others that breed elsewhere in the Bahamas and possibly on Long Island (but are known only from a few records) include eight waterbirds (Audubon's Shearwater, Great Egret, Snowy Egret, Little Blue Heron, Reddish Egret, Cattle Egret, Royal Tern, and Sandwich Tern) and one land bird (Burrowing Owl). The Greater Flamingo (*Phoenicopterus ruber*) and Cuban Parrot probably were former breeders extirpated in the 1800s. Flamingos seen occasionally in recent years presumably are nonbreeding visitors, probably from breeding colonies on Great Inagua.

Most of the land bird species are widely distributed in all terrestrial habitats, although the White-winged Dove and Blue-gray Gnatcatcher are more numerous in the more xeric and southern part of the island, and the Yellow Warbler is confined to mangroves and immediately adjacent scrub. The Northern Mockingbird is most numerous in the settlements, and the Common Ground-Dove and Black-faced Grassquit prefer open, weedy areas or low, sparse scrub, whereas the Gray Kingbird is usually seen in the tops of trees or on other tall, exposed perches. The nesting sites of the Antillean Nighthawk are invariably barren beds of rock, sand, or gravel, usually on beaches or the shores of ponds.

The White-winged Dove, and possibly also the Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, may represent recent range extensions from the southern Bahamas. Both are common, at least locally, among the southern islands, but neither is resident on immediately adjacent islands to the north, although the gnat-

catcher occurs on Andros and the Little Bahama Bank islands. Species that are otherwise widely distributed on the Great Bahama Bank but do not occur on Long Island are the Red-legged Thrush (*Turdus plumbeus*) and the Bahama Yellowthroat (*Geothlypis rostrata*), both of which are on comparably sized Cat Island, 50 km to the north. These absences may be due to habitat differences. The low, xerophytic vegetation of Long Island resembles that of the southern Bahamas more closely than that of other major islands on the Great Bank. Even many of the much smaller Exuma Cays have a more lush and verdant aspect.

Table 1 lists the indigenous land birds of Long Island in decreasing order of abundance based on general observations together with the results of census counts covering 164 km throughout the island. The only marked discrepancy between general observations and censuses is the relatively low count for the Antillean Nighthawk, which is usually inactive in full daylight when most of the counts were made.

Summer (ca mid-May to mid-August) is peak breeding time for many Bahama bird species (Buden 1987a, 1990b). During 6 July–13 August 1990, I found active nests, eggs, and young of 11 species of waterbirds and 13 land birds representing 46% and 57%, respectively, of the probable breeding species in these two categories. Of the 13 land bird species I found incubating or with nests under construction during summer 1990, the Antillean Nighthawk was the only obligatory ground nester. The White-crowned Pigeon and Zenaida Dove nested mainly in trees, occasionally on the ground, and the remaining ten (White-winged Dove, Mourning Dove, Smooth-billed Ani, Bahama Woodstar, Gray Kingbird, Northern Mockingbird, Bahama Mockingbird, Thick-billed Vireo, Bananaquit, and Black-faced Grassquit) had their nests one to several meters high in trees and shrubs. Four waterbird species (White-cheeked Pintail, Black-necked Stilt, Gull-billed Tern, and Least Tern) nested on the ground, and four others (Double-crested Cormorant, Tricolored Heron, Green-backed Heron, and Yellow-crowned Night-Heron) were found nesting only in trees. Most of the Osprey nests were on the ground on rocky promontories, occasionally in trees.

Potential threats, especially to ground nesting birds on Long Island, include feral cats, rats, and wild pigs in the southern part of the island. Although commercial development is minimal, there is some ongoing habitat loss and degradation as a result of small scale housing, road, and other construction.

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#### RECORDS WANTED OF VAGRANT BIRDS IN SEYCHELLES

A Records Committee has been established to collate data on birds in the Republic of Seychelles, which also includes the coral limestone atolls of the Amirantes, Providence, Farquhar and Aldabra groups. It will assess and publish records of vagrants, as well as monitoring the populations of breeding species and migrants, with the ultimate aim of producing a full check-list. The members are Ian Bullock, Chris Feare, James Ferguson-Lees (chairman), David Fisher, Ron Gerlach, John Phillips, and Adrian Skerrett (secretary), all of whom have spent much time in the islands. Past and present observations are needed of any species that have been reported less than annually. Lists are available from Adrian Skerrett, P.O. Box 336, Victoria, Mahe, Seychelles, to whom all observations should be sent.